



Muscatine County Board of Health Minutes

July 15, 2020 | 12:00pm | Muscatine County Administration Building

Board members

William Koellner, Chairman | Brian Wright, Secretary

Karen Harper | Dr. Michael Maharry, Physician Representative | Brandy Olson

Members Present: William Koellner, Brian Wright, Karen Harper, Brandy Olson, Michael Maharry

Others Present: Eric Furnas, Christy Roby Williams, Holly Barrett, Vanessa Leza, Scott Sauer, Felicia Toppert, Jacob Dornbush

Visitors Present: None

Meeting was called to order at 12:01PM by Koellner through virtual GoTo Meeting in accordance with the Iowa Governor's request.

- I. Motion made by Maharry to approve minutes from the 05/21/2020 meeting. Harper seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- II. Koellner requested for citizens to speak. None present at this time.

III. Public Health Reports

A. Environmental Health

-Furnas provided an update to the Board of Health regarding the large-scale composting of hogs. The process of composting has been confirmed successful and can be completed as a last resort if necessary. Furnas has communicated with DNR officials regarding a local beef producer engaging in animal composting. The DNR will be requiring a compost site and commercial site permit to continue operations. Zoning concerns surrounding the composting are currently being assessed.

-Water Well Testing – Furnas reported that testing has resumed, and staff are required to wear appropriate PPE.

B. Public Health COVID-19 Response

-Operations and Planning – Roby Williams shared with the BOH that the Public Health department is seeing an increase in positive COVID-19 patients throughout the county. Public Health disease investigators continue surveillance and monitoring of individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19. With schools devising Return to Learn plans, Public Health continues to have regular planning conversations with local school superintendents and school administrators focusing on the implementation health and safety best practices.

-Logistics and Finance – Dornbush reported to the BOH that Public Health is purchasing and maintaining an adequate supply of PPE in anticipation of a surge in positive COVID-19 cases within the county. Dornbush reported to the BOH that funding approved by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors was utilized to cover expenditures for COVID-19 related activities. Public Health is inquiring about other funding opportunities that will help continue to cover public health response effort expenditures.

C. Communicable Disease Report

-Roby Williams reported that Tuberculosis is still prevalent in community, and positivity rates are increasing. Roby Williams reported a decline in the provision of immunizations at Public Health, likely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Health is devising ways in which the department can promote the importance of obtaining immunizations, through social media and other platforms. Due to limited family planning services as a result of the pandemic, STI testing has also declined slightly.

D. Other Items

-Muscatine County BOH Resolution on the wearing of Face Coverings – A motion was made by Maharry to make public, a statement on the importance of wearing face masks when in community. Olson moved to amend language of the statement, adding clarity around best practices when using a mask. Harper second the motion to amend. Olson second the motion to approve the statement with amendments. All ayes. Motion carried.

-Fueling the Future – Roby Williams shared with the BOH that Public Health has been awarded a federal HRSA grant for the Fueling the Future project. This work has already been started in collaboration with community partners but with additional funding, this will allow for expansion of this project.

-Racial Justice Fund committee – Roby Williams shared with the BOH that a representative from Public Health will be serving on the committee with other community partners, to assist in determining funding for certain racial justice initiatives.

IV. Next Board Meeting: August 19, 2020 at 12:00pm

A. Items for Agenda

-Maharry requested the addition of an agenda item for discussing the handling of fireworks and the effect it has on our community, be covered at a future meeting.

V. Motion made by Maharry to adjourn the meeting at 1:15PM. Olson seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

William Koellner, Chairman

Brian Wright, Secretary